

Whatever was not provided by the terms of tenure or communal liberties was met by a wealthy exchequer; the fleets which followed George of Antioch or Christodulus to sea were drawn from Ban, Salerno, Amalfi, and all the coast towns of the kingdom, and manned by seamen of whom the larger portion received royal pay. In the organ* ising of a war marine, as in many other things, it is probable that the Norman simply assumed the prerogatives and filled the vacant throne of the Arab and Greek princes who had gone before him. In Egypt, under the Fatimite khalifs, the governors of the provinces provided the greater part of the navy, the rest was raised by the "divan of naval armament*"; it is possible that the system which their emirs had imposed upon Sicily was resumed by Roger, * The complete and intricate machinery of government, of which the King was the guiding hand, itself made provision for the naval department; we hear of a "Count of the Galleys" whose duty it is to supervise the fiefs and towns which have naval service Imposed upon them. Finally, alone of the Latin-Teutonic nations of the West, the Sicilian kingdom evolved not only a great fleet, but an official to

command
it; the short but brilliant line of
Norman-Sicilian
admirals began.

It is probable that the office, no IMS
ttwaa the
name, was owed to the Moslems and
to their
"sea-emirs," ' However that may be,
the office

¹ Araarf, *S, D, U_n* vol. til., p. 336.